



Capitol
NEWS

State Senator Martha G. Scott

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION FOR MY CONSTITUENTS IN THE 2ND DISTRICT

Highland Park Poised for a Comeback



Sen. Scott recently led a power-packed tour of potential development sites in Highland Park. Commanding a meeting room filled with

politicians, community activists, and state economic leaders, Sen. Scott spoke of her city—a place where she grew up and later governed as Mayor.

She reminisced on what Highland Park once was and dreamt aloud of what it could become. The city of 16,000 has had its share of hard knocks, but is steadily turning itself around. Just three years ago, the city was put in receivership and in that short time has cut its operating deficit to below \$1 million from \$3.5 million a year.

This news grabbed Don Jakeway, President/CEO, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, who, among other officials, has pledged to help Highland Park become viable. “We are all aware of the challenges being faced by Highland Park as well as other communities,” Mr. Jakeway said. “We look forward to working with Sen. Scott and the people of Highland Park to turn these challenges into opportunities. We make good things happen and there’s no reason we can’t do it here.”

How To Reach Me

Mailing Address

Sen. Martha G. Scott
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI
48909-7536

Phone

517-373-7748

Toll-Free

1-800-SCOTT-78
1-800-726-8878

Fax

517-373-1387

E-Mail

SenMScott@senate.
michigan.gov

Website

www.senate.mi.
gov/scott

Scott Releases Payday Lending Public Announcement

Sen. Scott has taken her fight against the unregulated payday lending industry to the airwaves. Unsatisfied with House-sponsored legislation that lacked the bite she believes is necessary, Sen. Scott developed her own public service announcement (see insert) warning of the perils of payday lending.

Currently, payday lenders can charge

made against consumer paychecks. The House legislation limited the interest rate at 15 percent—still much higher than Sen. Scott thinks is fair. The Governor agreed and vetoed the weak bill. The Legislature has yet to reconsider the measure.

“Hi. I’m State Senator Martha G. Scott. Payday cash lenders are draining you of your life’s blood thanks to lawmakers who won’t limit the amount of interest you are charged on loans. Financial help should not be reduced to highway robbery. Beware before you borrow. Call me at 1-800-SCOTT 78 to stop the fleecing of Detroit. Remember, 1-800-SCOTT 78.”

upwards of 25 percent interest on each loan

Elementary School Students Quilt Their Way to Unity

Earlier this year, a culturally diverse group of students from Hamtramck’s Dickinson East Elementary School traveled to the state Capitol to show off an art project. Bright, vibrant colors and multi-dimensional designs captured the combined

spirits of energy and history that only emanate from young hands. These students, together with their adult leaders, vanquished cultural differences to engage in a hands-on lesson in American history—quilting.

Originally used by slaves to communicate

escape routes and messages, quilting became an activity that knitted together generations of African American mothers and daughters. It has done the same for these children. Working side by side, they created a beautiful work of art

that contains its own messages of healing and togetherness.

Sen. Scott presented the quilt to the Senate with pride and in anticipation of what a future of acceptance could mean to all of society. The symbolic nature of the quilt was not lost on Dickinson East Teacher Millie Stachowski who coordinates the art program. She shared with the Senate, “Every student and teacher has had the opportunity to utilize the arts to strengthen their own cultural identity and learn how to appreciate the culture of others.”

Thank you, Dickinson East students! We all need to follow your example of acceptance.



Insurance Woes Heard in Senate Committee

Auto and homeowners insurance rates in Michigan are in a state of emergency. The decision to go without coverage is sometimes the sacrifice made when people are forced to choose between paying for food and shelter, or paying for insurance.

Sen. Scott has been fighting to get the attention of her fellow lawmakers on this important issue. It took three months of daily statements on the Senate floor, but it is starting to work. Lawmakers have allowed committee hearings on personal insurance pricing.

Bipartisan hearings were also held on the “closed door” rate-setting practices of the Michigan

Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) earlier this year. This group, which provides unlimited medical insurance to individuals severely injured in auto accidents, raised its rates to \$127 per car from \$100 a car last year.

Sen. Scott believes the hearings are a good start. She continues to advocate for parity in personal insurance rates. Cities like Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck, and other urban areas have the highest insurance rates in the country. Sen. Scott and her Detroit colleagues won’t stop until they have brought peace of mind and financial security to all of us.

Welcome Aboard, Cecelia!



Senator Scott is proud to announce that Cecelia M. Stevenson has joined the Detroit office as a Legislative Assistant. Ms. Stevenson is a lifelong resident of Highland Park, and recently retired as an Advertising Coordinator for the U.S. Navy Recruiting Office/Department of Defense.

“We are ecstatic to have someone of Cecelia’s background and character work with us,” Sen. Scott said. “We look forward to a long and productive relationship.”

Ms. Stevenson has worked as a Head Start instructor and has mentored youth. She also has housed unwed mothers and their children. A proud and happy dog owner, Ms. Stevenson is a Humane Society volunteer.

She is Sen. Scott’s eyes and ears in the district. Feel free to contact Ms. Stevenson with district or legislative concerns and to schedule appointments for office hours. The toll-free phone number is (800) 726-8878.

Task Force Fights Lead Poisoning

Sen. Scott recently hosted a community-wide meeting to discuss Michigan's environment. The forum included presentations by Michigan Surgeon General Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom and environmental experts from the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The meeting was part of a Senate Democratic Task Force created to study the impacts of key environmental issues on the health of Michigan children. The focus on children is a response to their vulnerability to environmental hazards like lead paint, with their bodies absorbing 50 percent of the lead they ingest, compared to a 10 percent rate in adults.

"Lead poisoning is a silent attacker that



lurks in many homes undetected," Sen. Scott said. "We must take steps to help parents assess lead levels in their homes in order to protect children, our most precious resources."

The environmental forum was one of three such task force sessions held across Southeast Michigan from May to June. This section of

the state, including Wayne County, has the highest number of lead poisoning instances in Michigan. In Detroit, where 63 percent of the houses were built prior to 1950, children have blood lead levels up to 10 times the national average. This spring, Gov. Granholm signed into law two bills aimed at diagnosing and preventing lead

poisoning. The first compels medical providers who receive Medicaid payments to screen all children for lead poisoning, as required by federal law. The second requires laboratories that conduct lead poisoning testing to electronically report their findings to the Department of Community Health.

Four Tops Day



Sen. Scott was on hand as the Senate proclaimed May 12, 2004, "Four Tops Day." Shown with the Detroit Senate delegation, Sen. Scott (center) is flanked by Abdul "Duke" Fakir (third from left), Levi Stubbs (seated), and Renaldo "Obie" Benson (fourth from right). They are joined by Yone Payton (third from right), widow of original member Lawrence Payton, who died of liver cancer in 1997.

Scott Fights Obesity

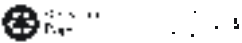
Save the date of Saturday, September 11, 2004, when Sen. Scott will host a health fair to combat obesity. Themed "Good Food, Good Health, Good Life: Combating Obesity for a Healthy Tomorrow," the free fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner St. in Detroit.

Call (800) 726-8878 for further information.



State Senator
Martha G. Scott

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536



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Scott's Summer Sizzler



July 2004

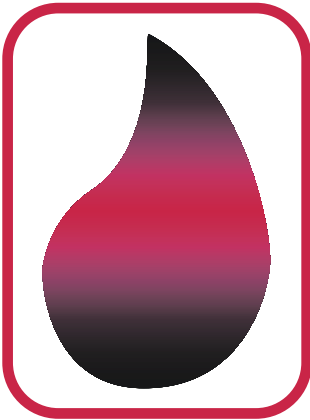
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Calling All Blood Donors

The Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross has gone on critical appeal for blood donations. Summer months are historically challenging times for blood donations and this summer is no exception. Blood banks are facing serious shortages as blood usage increases and donations decrease. Please consider donating blood this summer.

Call **1-800-GIVE-LIFE** for the blood bank nearest you; or visit the Southeastern Michigan American Red Cross website at: www.semredcross.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sen. Scott Announces Coffee Schedule

Every Monday, Sen. Scott will hold coffee hours in local restaurants in one of the communities of the 2nd Senate District. These coffee hours will give District residents an opportunity to meet with her and discuss state legislation and community issues of public interest. Coffee hours are between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. The coffee hour schedule is as follows:

Detroit: First Monday of every month at McDonald's, 10400 Gratiot Ave., Detroit.	Hamtramck: Second Monday of every month at The Maine Street Restaurant, 11650 Joseph Campau St., Hamtramck.	Grosse Pointes/Harper Woods: Third Monday of every month at the Caribou Coffee Company, 19419 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods.	Highland Park: Fourth Monday of every month at McDonald's, 14124 Woodward Ave., Highland Park.
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"I look forward to meeting with the citizens of the 2nd Senate District to discuss important issues concerning our area and the state. You do not need to make an appointment to talk with me during these coffee hours. I encourage you to please join me for coffee and a discussion of what matters most to our communities and our families." —Sen. Scott